



Hong Kong: A Tale of Two Systems

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MinuteMUN XIX

March 13 - 15, 2020

UMass Amherst International Relations Club & Model United Nations Team

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Introduction

Hello all, my name is Tim Puglisi, and I am your crisis manager. I am a sophomore majoring in Political Science and Resource Economics, and hopefully a Chinese minor. I have been doing Model UN since my freshman year of high school and chaired the African Union committee last year. I look forward to seeing you decide to help stop the protests as I have a huge interest in Chinese politics.

My name is Jake Schiering, and I will be chairing your crisis committee. Currently, I am a sophomore at UMass, majoring in supply chain management and economics, as well as a minor in German language. Model UN has always been a passion of mine as I have been a member since middle school, helped put together my own conference in high school, and continued on into college, co-chairing last year's World Health Organization committee. Hong Kong is one of the most interesting and dynamic situations in world politics today. I believe that your efforts in this committee will spark debates central to the very questions that shape our democracy and the future of the world.

My name is Tanner Carlson, and I'll also be chairing this crisis committee. I'm a freshman majoring in Communications, and I plan on getting my Master's in Library Science as well. I've done Model UN since my junior year at high school, participating in UMass Lowell's conferences. This is my first time chairing a crisis committee, so I'm interested in seeing how you handle this very real crisis. Good luck!

In this committee, we will be simulating the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, starting on June 1st 2019. You will be responsible for trying to quell the protests, maintain peace, and gain allegiance from both the protesters and the Communist Party in China. The Legislative Council, or LegCo, is the unicameral legislative body that governs the people of Hong Kong. There are multiple different blocs within this committee; some counselors are for the extradition,

others took a moderate stance, and some were against the enactment of the extradition bill.

The delegates should maintain a focus before June of 2019 when doing research, as this committee is a simulation of how you would stop protests and appease the people of Hong Kong. It is also critical that delegates focus their research on their Councilors' stance on the extradition bill.

Statement of the Problem

It is June 1st, 2019, and there is a growing backlash among the citizens of Hong Kong toward the proposed Extradition Bill. The formal name of this bill is the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019. The proposed bill states that all those that are fugitive offenders are subject to extradition to Mainland China. There was an outcry about this bill due to the minimal presence of the rule of law within China. There are no proven statistics but it is said that the conviction rate for crime in China is over 90%, thus causing those in Hong Kong to fear the loss of their liberties. At the same time, China is rapidly developing an urban megacenter that includes Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Macau. China's goal is to have this entire region be under the direct control of the Chinese Communist Party. Consequently, many members of LegCo express their allegiance to China as they fear they might lose power in government. Other members of LegCo are still focused on supporting the interests of the people of Hong Kong.

History

Hong Kong is currently a Special Administrative Region of China. This region has been a source for many conflicts over the past 200 years. The area has been under the rule of many different governments, including the Japanese, the British, and multiple Chinese governments. The current state of China is the "one

country, two systems" plan coordinated by the British government and the Chinese Communist Party. This agreement stated that Hong Kong would no longer be under British control, but would retain the capitalist economic system and a partially democratic political system for 50 years. In 27 years Hong Kong will be under the complete control of the Chinese Communist Party.

Governmental history of Hong Kong

With multiple handovers of rule and many political systems over the course of centuries, Hong Kong has quite a bit of history that is essential in understanding the demands of the protestors. In 1842, China handed over Hong Kong island to the British. This was a result of the First Opium War. This war has been a focus of the Chinese Communist Party, as they believe that the British destroyed China by purposefully selling and getting Chinese people addicted to the consumption of opium to gain economic power. In 1860 during the Convention of Peking, Kowloon was formally given to Britain, and by 1898 Britain had control over all of Hong Kong.

When the Sino-Japanese War began many mainland Chinese sought refuge in Hong Kong. But in 1941 Japan took control and occupied Hong Kong causing many of the residents of Hong Kong to flee to mainland China. In 1946 after the Sino-Japanese War and World War II, Britain re-established a government in Hong Kong and the region became a safe haven for Nationalists and Communists during the Chinese Civil War. Hong Kong remained under complete British Control until 1984. In 1984, Britain and China signed a Joint Declaration, stating that Hong Kong would be under Chinese rule in 1997. This declaration stated that Hong Kong would be part of communist-led China, but would still have a capitalist economic system and partially democratic political system 50 years after the declaration. For 5 years, leaders debated about Beijing's post-handover mini-constitution, as many were for more democratic reforms to this proposed

constitution. By 1995 the government was formally organized and they held their first elections for the Legislative Council (LegCo).

After over a century of British rule, Chinese authorities were given formal control over Hong Kong in 1997. Tung Chee-hwa, a man with no political experience, was chosen by the leaders in Beijing to control the territory. In 1998 the first elections were held after the British handover. This is the first time that Britain had no oversight over the political operations within Hong Kong. Hong Kong has maintained this political system up to present day, aside from some political reform.

History of opposition to Hong Kong government

Since the official handover of Hong Kong there has been opposition to the “1 country 2 system” model. The first time that Hong Kongers had their first test from Beijing, there was a protest outside of the Beijing liaison office in Hong Kong defending the Falun Gong movement. The Falun Gong movement involves religious practices and meditation, but in the late 1990s the Chinese Communist Party started to criticize and denounce the Falun Gong movement and even arrest and persecute those practicing it. This was China's first true test at taking away the freedoms of the residents of Hong Kong. It resulted in the trial of 16 protestors and they were all found guilty for public obstruction.

Another example of government opposition in Hong Kong was Basic Law Article 23, which gave the government of Hong Kong the power to enact laws to prevent acts of treason, succession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government. There was so much opposition to this law, that over 500,000 people marched in protest. This was the largest pro-democracy protest in Hong Kong since the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. Because of this 500,000 person protest the bill was abandoned, and since then there have been protests every July 1st protesting democracy and other political rights for their people. In 2004, China demanded that the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing had the right

to veto any moves toward democracy. One of these requests was that Beijing had direct control over the election of Hong Kong's chief executive. That year during the elections the Pro-Beijing parties kept their majority in the Legislative Council. The disruptions caused by Beijing led the British Government to accuse Hong Kong of interfering in their constitutional reform. This also sparked concern among human rights groups as they accused Beijing of intentionally skewing the elections results.

The next significant event where the people of Hong Kong opposed Beijing was in June of 2005 when over 10,000 people commemorated the 16th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square incident. It was estimated that 45,000 people attended the protest to remember those that fought for democracy in Beijing in 1989 just like they were. During 2005 there were more pro-democracy protests like the anti-globalization protest in front of the World Trade Organization criticizing the Chinese expansion and globalism. In 2005 pro-democracy legislators also blocked CEO Donald Tsang's constitutional reforms as they argued that the reforms were not satisfactory as they did not ensure universal suffrage. As Donald Tsang officially took office as CEO in 2007 he unveiled his plans for democracy. But Beijing would only allow the people of Hong Kong to elect their own leader ten years later, in 2017.

It is not until July of 2014 that the people of Hong Kong have a substantial protest again. They held pro-democracy after Beijing condemned an unofficial referendum vote giving the people a say in short-listing candidates for future elections. These protests caused Beijing to rule out a fully democratic election, and said that only candidates approved by the CCP would be allowed to run. The protests were so substantial that over 100,000 were in attendance, and the Mong Kok protest camp was not taken down until December of 2014 over a month after the initial protests.

In 2016 the LegCo's seats were filled with a new generation of pro-independence legislators as this election had the highest voter turnout since

1997. But during this year 2 people were removed from LegCo by the leadership in Beijing. The leadership in Beijing also disqualified two other legislators from being inaugurated as LegCo members, as they refused to pledge their allegiance during inauguration.

In 2017, Carrie Lam won the election to become the next Chief Executive. During her inauguration, Chinese President Xi Jinping used this event to warn the people of Hong Kong about not undermining the influence of Beijing in this region. This caused a large amount of controversy within Hong Kong. But it was not until 2019 when the extradition bill was presented that people came out in masses to protest for democracy.

Current State of the Protests

The 2019 protests started in opposition to the extradition bill. Many were concerned that the proposed amendment to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance would subject Hong Kong citizens and visitors to the laws and jurisdiction of mainland China, thereby undermining Hong Kong's sovereignty.

Hong Kong citizens have been showing their discontent. Already there have been two major protests, though both were peaceful and well-contained. There has been talk online that a large protest may take place in the coming days, with numbers of attendees possibly reaching hundreds of thousands. The bill still remains under debate.

The Hong Kong Police have been preparing for this possible protest as well. The Police have released a press statement stating: "Police reiterate that any acts endangering public order and public safety will not be tolerated. Police will take resolute actions to restore social order and protect public safety." The police department has been acquiring large stocks of riot shields, batons, and tear gas grenades in preparation of the possible protest.

After the preliminary marches and protests, the protesters have organized a set of 5 demands that they will be marching for.

1. Complete removal of the extradition bill from the legislative process
2. Retraction of characterisation of early protests as “riots” made by the police
3. Release of arrested protesters, who were arrested illegitimately
4. Establishment of an inquiry into police brutality used during the protests
5. Removal of Carrie Lam from office and guarantee of universal suffrage for Legislative elections.

Key Questions

- Are you in support of the Extradition Bill?
- Do you want Hong Kong to have more allegiance to China or the Western order?
- Are you willing to make concessions with the protesters' requests?
- How will you maintain political stability among the protesters?
- Will you ask for support from countries other than China?
- Will you ask for support from the Chinese government for aid and preventing violent protests?
- Does China have the interests of the people of Hong Kong in mind?

Key Players

All actors in this crisis committee are members of Hong Kong's Legislative Committee. Legislators represent either Geographical Constituencies (representing different geographical areas of Hong Kong) or Functional Constituencies (representing specific interest-based groups).

Geographical Constituency Legislators:

Leung Che-Ceung is a pro-establishment Legislative counselor, and a member of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong. He represents the geographical constituency of New Territories West. His party is pro-Beijing and conservative.

Priscella Lueng has been a representative for the Kowloon West district since 2008. Her party affiliation lies with the Business and Professional Alliance for Hong Kong; a party centered around expanding business interests from a pro-Beijing standpoint. In light of the protests, Lueng has taken a some-what moderate approach, encouraging lawmakers to be lenient towards protestors who committed only minor offences.

Kwok Wai-keung is a Legislative Councilor representing Hong Kong Island, though he previously held the Legislative Functional Constituency. Elected in 2016, he is a member of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, a party with strong ties to the Communist Party of China.

Regina Ip is a contentious figure in the Legislative Council. She founded the New People's Party, and generally takes a pro-Democracy stance. When serving on the Executive committee in 2003, however, she was an influential advocate of Hong Kong Basic Law Article 23; legislation that would have made it treason to commit any act of "treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government". Despite this she today claims to be pro-democracy, despite various other examples to the contrary.

Cheng Chung-tai was elected in 2016 as the representative of New Territories West, as a member of the localist party: Civic Passion. The party has been cited to have radical, populist and nativist views, including advocating for militant

protests against the Chinese Central government. In 2017 he was charged for turning Chinese flags upside down in the Legislative Council, and 2019 he was among prominent pro-Democracy figures arrested following the June riots.

Wu Chi-wai is the chairman of the Democratic Party, representing the Kowloon East Constituency. While the party is pro-democracy, it is much more moderate when compared with the demands of some protestors. His party advocates for a continuation of the “One Country, Two Systems” agreement with mainland China, but want to expand on democratic institutions and human rights.

Hui Chi Fung is a member of the Democratic party representing the Hong Kong Island Constituency. He was considered one of the more ideologically radical Democrats within the party. In his time as a District Councillor, he was kicked out for protesting a decision to allocate funds to pro-Beijing groups, and has continued such behaviour as a member of the Legislative Council.

Fernando Cheung is the Vice-Chairman of the Labour party and the representative of the Sha Tin Constituency in Hong Kong. He worked in the United States from 1988 to 1996, graduating from the University of California Berkeley, eventually becoming a naturalized citizen. He previously served as the Function Councilor for the Social welfare constituency and has a strong pro-Democracy background, refusing to visit Beijing to stand in solidarity with Hong Kong.

Yau Wai-ching is a representative of Kowloon West and a member of the Youngspiration party. In 2016 following election, she was removed from LegCo due to an oath taking conspiracy along with six other members of LegCo. We decided to include her on this committee because of her outspoken localist views and as a voice for those removed from the council. The Youngspiration party calls for a

referendum on Hong Kong's independence that goes into effect in 2047, when "one country, two systems" is set to end.

Functional Constituency Legislators:

Ip Kin-yuen is the representative of the Education Functional Constituency.

During his time as a student at the University of Hong Kong, he drafted letters to United Kingdom Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, stating the student body's desire to return sovereignty back to China with, while maintaining democracy in Hong Kong. He was a founding member of the Democratic party, but left the party and is now one of the leaders of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union.

Wong Ting Kwong represents the Import and Export functional constituency and is a member of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong. His party is pro-Beijing and conservative.

Shiu Ka-Chun is the representative for the Social Welfare functional constituency and holds no party affiliation. He is well known for his role in the 2014 Hong Kong protests, showing a strong commitment to democracy in Hong Kong.

Jeffrey Lam has been a member of LegCo for almost 16 years, and currently represents the Commercial functional constituency as a member of the Business and Professional Alliance for Hong Kong, a party which he co-founded in 2012. The party is pro-Beijing and is the second largest by membership in LegCo.

Kenneth Lau represents the Hung Yee Kuk functional constituency, also referred to as the rural constituency, and is a member of the Business and Professional Alliance. The party is pro-Beijing and is the second largest by membership in LegCo.

Starry Lee is a star among the pro-beijing camps, as the first woman to chair the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, and the representative of the District Council elections, or super seats, which represent the entirety of Hong Kong.

Tommy Cheung is the functional constituency representative for the catering industry and is a member of the catering industry. He is the chair of the Liberal party, which is a conservative, pro-Beijing party.

Luk Chung-hung is a member of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong. He was elected to the LegCo in 2016, but is facing harsh competition from many pro-Beijing candidates in his district.

Leung Yiu-Chung is a district councillor and member of the Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre, which is a part of the pan-democracy camp. Chung has been actively involved in politics within Hong Kong since Britain's handover of power.

Dennis Kwok is the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee and Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services in the LegCo. He also was a member of the LegCo representing the legal functional constituency from 2012 to 2016 and is a founding member of the Civic Party.

Andrew Leung is the current President of the Legislative Council. He is representing the Industrial (First) functional constituency. He was the chairman of the Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong from 2012 to 2016 which

is a pro-Beijing party. Leung has faced constant scrutiny from the Pro-democracy camp during his time in office.

Other Actors

Mile Kwok is a self made Chinese billionaire from real estate. This past year he has become an outspoken political activist fighting for the enactment and upholding of the rule of law within both mainland China and Hong Kong. With the help of the people of Hong Kong he has earned a temporary seat on the LegCo, but faces substantial backlash from the pro-Beijing camp due to his radical pro-democracy ideal. He has great influence over the people of Hong Kong as he has millions of dedicated followers to his social media pages that promote an entirely democratic China.

Wang Zhimin is another temporary member of the LegCo, he is also currently the director of the Hong Kong Liaison Office, which is the centerpiece of communication between Beijing and Hong Kong. He is a member of the Chinese Communist Party and is outstandingly against pro-Democracy movements with a strong allegiance to Xi Jinping.

Additional sources to consider:

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/>

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